GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4116
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
PSYCHIATRIC COUNSELLING FOR STUDENTS
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to make provisions for psychiatric counselling for students studying in the institutes of higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes any alternative or additional measures to ensure that students suffering from mental or emotional distress in such institutes are accorded necessary help; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has framed guidelines in order to help the students, teachers, administrators and institutions understand the minimum entitlements of the students. It is mandatory for every college/ university to publish the present guidelines in full in its prospectus and also post them on the homepage of its website. These guidelines are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/ 4336926_StudentsEntitlementGuidelines.pdf .

These guidelines provide for the entitlement of the students to a reasonable level of medical and health services including free and periodic health check-up, treatment and hospitalization in case of medical emergencies.

Also, as per the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for prevention of suicide and promotion of wellness in the Centrally Funded Technical Intuitions (CFTIs), the CFTIs have been instructed to have a dedicated system to cater to the mental health and counselling needs of its students. Multiple stakeholders, including faculty, students, staff, parents and mental health professionals, are involved in the working of this dedicated system.

(c) & (d): As per the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for prevention of suicide and promotion of wellness in the Centrally Funded Technical Intuitions (CFTIs), the CFTIs have been instructed to ensure increasing compassionate interaction between the faculty and the students beyond the class room; provide avenues such as grievance cell, ombudsman etc., for redressing student grievances, find out ways and means of reducing the financial burden on the deserving students etc.